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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,266	01/22/2004	Wesley L. Crow	US 1358/03	2581

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EXAMINER

SCRUGGS, ROBERT J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3723

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,266

Applicant(s)

CROW, WESLEY L.

Examiner

Robert Scruggs

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 and 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 22 January 2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 6 and 15, are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on July 21, 2005.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on January 22, 2004 is noted. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5, 7-14 and 16-19, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carroll (2004/0074344). Carroll, discloses a variable length socket comprising:

- a. A first member (70), which can be formed (Page 3, Paragraph 27) as having a first internal involute spline section (76), made up of ten to twenty-seven splines (Page 3, Paragraph 27) that are adapted to extend partly along the length of said first member at various lengths which may include one-half to six inches in length (Page 2, Paragraph 22) or may be adapted to extend up to about a midpoint along the length of said first member, a second section (40), having an axially contiguous drive section where said second section can be configured to receive a workpiece manipulated by socket (42), having an internal recess (100) being of hexagonal form which can be configured to extend to different lengths based upon the type of socket desired for different types of workpieces with different lengths, which allows for said recess to extend to a midpoint along the length of said first member if so desired (Page 2, Paragraph 23), and
- b. A second member (20), which can be formed (Page 3, Paragraph 27) as having a third external spline section (80) telescopically cooperating with said first member, which are adapted to extend to different lengths depending on the type of workpiece being used which allows for said third external spline section to extend beyond a midpoint along the length of said second member if so desired, a fourth section (28) having an internal recess (22) for receiving a drive member of a wrench and having an axially contiguous drive section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3723

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 11 and 20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carroll as applied to claims 1 and 12 above, in view of Lee (6408721). Carroll disclosed the variable length socket previously mentioned but lacks a variable length wrench being connected to said variable length socket. However, Lee discloses an variable length wrench comprising an elongated shank (22) mounted to a body (20), with an elongated retractable handle (24) telescopically and slidably mounted on the shank, and an adjusting device (30) for adjustably securing the retractable handle on the shank. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the variable length socket of Carroll, with the adjustable length wrench comprising an elongated shank mounted to a body with an elongated retractable handle telescopically and slidably mounted on the shank, and an adjusting device for adjustably securing the retractable handle on the shank, in view of Lee, in order to provide a torque of various strengths for operating workpieces which need torque of different strengths.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Erickson (4344340) discloses an adjustable socket wrench having a solid square rod received in a sleeve. Staggs et al. (4907660) discloses an interchangeable sectional mining drill and bolt drive system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Scruggs whose telephone number is 571-272-8682. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 571-272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RS



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